Weisbergs honored at Hood

By JULIA ROBB
News-Post Staff

Hood College conferred an honorary doctor of humane letters degree Sunday on both Harold Weisberg and his wife Lillian Stone Weisberg.

Mr. Weisberg is the author of seven books about the Kennedy assassination and Mrs. Weisberg is his editor and research organizer. She has also indexed his published works.

Hood College President Martha Church told those attending the convocation in Coffman Chapel that the college confers honorary degrees because it recognizes the importance of "role models."

Mr. Weisberg has also donated a collection of more than 300,000 pages of government documents and research papers related to the John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King assassinations, she said.

Dr. Gerald McKnight, a Hood history professor who teaches a class on the "politics of assassination," told the packed chapel that the Kennedy assassination was not only a national tragedy, but the single event which changed the way Americans think about their government.

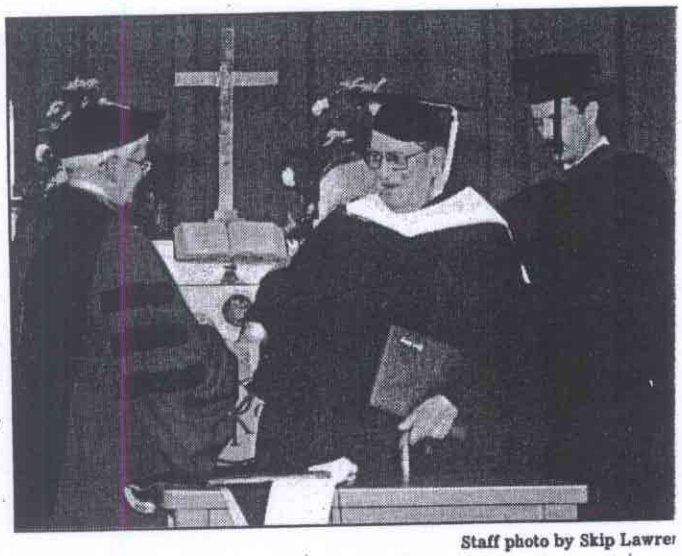
America was transformed and it was not a change for the better, he said.

Because it was such an important event, books on the assassination are a "growth industry," Dr. McKnight said.

But he added that most are flawed by authors who mix facts and hypothesis and believe that "all history is conspiracy," or others who simply have no respect for facts and exploit the subject to gain fame and fortune.

Mr. Weisberg's work, however, has not centered on who killed President Kennedy or why, subjects which are now a "dead zone", but his "research and scholarship" has targeted the government's political whitewash, the Warren Commission's falsification of evidence.

Mr. Weisberg's books have stood the test of time and he is also important for having used t privacy act more than any oth private citizen to gain access government secrets, said I McKnight.



Staff photo by Skip Lawrer

JFK assassination researcher Harold Weisberg was awarded honorary degree for his efforts by Hood College duri convocation ceremonies Sunday. From left are Hood Colle President Martha Church, Mr. Weisberg and Dr. David Hei